

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1102 (Delegate Wolek)
 Ways and Means

Maryland Green Schools - Website Update and Maintenance

This bill requires the Governor to include in the fiscal 2026 budget bill \$7,000 for the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) to update its Maryland Green Schools website, as specified, by January 1, 2026. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the website be updated at least once a month. Each local board of education must (1) prominently display a link on the local board’s website to the updated Maryland Green Schools website and (2) within the first two weeks of the first and third quarter of each school year, circulate information to teachers and staff about the green school program and the website. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$7,000 in FY 2026 due to the mandated appropriation. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2026.**

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	7,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$7,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local school systems can post a website link and circulate the required information using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: In general, the [website](#) must be updated to include (1) a novice section dedicated to introducing schools to the concept of becoming a green school, including those specified; (2) an on-ramp section dedicated to helping schools transition from stand-alone green activities to more complicated green activities and projects and development of outlined plans for becoming a certified green school, including those specified; (3) an application section; and (4) contact info as specified, including county environmental literacy specialists, experts from facilities awarded the Maryland Green Center Award, and green leaders.

Current Law: Chapters 739 and 740 of 2019, as amended by Chapter 524 of 2022, require the Governor to include in the State budget specified funding for MAEOE, in fiscal 2021 through 2028, for the purpose of increasing the number of green schools in the State. An annual evaluation of the impact of this funding must be conducted in calendar 2022 through 2029.

The dollar amounts that may be used by MAEOE are specified under five particular categories to:

- support professional development, assist with student transportation to and from environmentally focused activities, or support school projects that incorporate specified environmental best practices;
- increase the number of environmental educators in the State who will provide green schools training and assist schools with becoming green schools;
- support statewide green school events;
- conduct an annual evaluation by an independent contractor of the impact of the funds provided under the bill on increasing the number of green schools in the State; and
- create an online application form for a school to apply for funding under the bill.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Natural Resources; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2024
km/mcr

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510